GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4653
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2007
DDT CONTENT IN MEAT
Mcleod Smt. Ingrid

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government permits a higher level poisonous pesticide DDT content in meat and poultry as compared to Maximum Residual Level (MRL) permitted by the International Codex Alimentarius Commission(CAC) controlled by the World Helath Organisation (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is a proposal on the part of Codex, India to bring it down to the lower level as recommended by the CAC;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANIRAMADOSS)

(a) to (e) There is a ban on the use of DDT in agriculture. DDT is however, allowed to be use for vector control (malaria Programme) in the country.The maximum residue limit (MRL) for DDT in various foods commodities has been prescribed under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 for the reason that even though, DDT is not permitted to be used in agriculture, being one of the pesticides, which persists in the environment, it is generally detected in food commodities, feed and fodder.The maximum tolerance limits (MRL) for DDT on Meat, Poultry and fish (on whole product basis) has been prescribed as 7.0 ppm. in consultation with the Central Committee for Food Standards, the statutory committee under the PFA Act, 1954 to advise the Central Government on implementation of the Act.The current Codex level (as in 2006) for DDT in meat (from mammals other than marine mammals) is 5.0 mg/kg (on fat basis) and in poultry meat, it is 0.3 mg/kg.

(c) to (e): There is no such proposal at present.